

FIVE GO TO CHAIR ON THE SAME DAY

Powhatan Jury Makes Quick Work of Principals in Murder Case.

FATHER AND SON ARE SENTENCED TOGETHER

One of the Most Remarkable Crimes of This State Is Concluded as Far as Principals Are Concerned, and Expected Trouble Is Avoided.

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POWHATAN COURTHOUSE, Va.,
March 26.—Five negroes—fishan
and Joe Taylor, Lewis Jenkins
John and William Brown—are now
under sentence of death for the mur
der of Walter G. Johnson and Ma
Mary E. Skipwith on the night
February 13. John Brown and Wi
liam Brown, father and son, have
been found guilty to-day of complicity
in the double murder and house-bur
ing. All will die on April 30, in the
electric chair in the State Penitentiary.
It will be the most wholesale execution

The feature of the trial to-day was the fact that while William Brown was awaiting the fixing of his penalty by his jury, his father, fifty-eight years old, was waiting for the ju-

to try him for his life. Father and son sat side by side.

Almost as the jury in the case of William Brown pronounced him guilty of murder in the first degree, his father answered "not guilty" to the second indictment against him. It was a painful situation, the most tragic during all the trial.

John Brown had already been sentenced to hang.

Walter G. Johnson, the verdict having been returned owing to a misconstruction of the instructions given to the jury in his case. In the second trial the prosecuting attorneys made no move-

take, no oversight, left no loophole
escape. In the second trial, according
to the evidence, the jury had either
convict of murder in the first degree
or acquit. The testimony left but one

alternative. It was proven beyond doubt that John Brown had assisted in robbing the house after the double killing, and the law of the land made him a principal in the second degree to which the same punishment attached as to the principal in the first degree.

Same Witnesses Used.

Fleming and Robert Johnson and Stepheney Johnson, the principal witnesses during the whole trial and the ones used against John Brown in

first trial, were used against William Brown. All three sworn that William Brown was present during the fire, and that he helped carry out plunder from the house. Haskins Hobson and William M. Justis, Jr., attorneys for the

defense, tried in every way to break the witnesses, but their effort was useless. The three boys, for they are nothing more, still stood to their declaration that both Browns assisted in the robbery, and robbery, burglary and arson, which is attained through

commission of murder, is punishable only by death.

Attorneys for the defense made a powerful plea on the grounds of reasonable doubt. They had no other basis to argue. The jury left its box at 10:35 o'clock and returned at 10:45.

at 10:12 o'clock, and returned at 10:45 o'clock. They were called upon for their verdict, which was handed in by C. R. Kennon, foreman. It was murder in the first degree. William Brown twirled his mustache. The crowd locked on in silence.

"Face the prisoner," said Judge Hundley. Then the verdict was read again to the prisoner, who sat beside his father. He stood. He made no comment, and then Judge Hundley called for the jury to try John Brown on the second indictment. A venire

fifty-six men had been summoned originally. There were only six left, and Sheriff E. A. Baugh had to summon the rest from the courtroom from among those who had not heard the previous testimony. It took so much time.

Confesses Perjury.
The same witnesses were used again by both defense and prosecution. John Brown was put on in his own defense. He swore that his first confession of guilt was a lie, delivered under fear of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

of the Commonwealth's Attorney, of the law. He stated that Mr. Bonifaz, Commonwealth's Attorney, had threatened him with burning and that he was afraid of being placed in a cell, or, as he described, "a hot box." He swore that he was now telling

In the argument, R. G. Southall, a Congressman from Amelia county, opened for the prosecution. He

declared that the case was stronger than one depending only on the evidence of accomplices. W. M. Justis, Jr., for the defense, could ask the jury only to weigh the evidence, and left the case to them and their God. L. O. Wendt, for the prosecution, complimented

the citizens, in that they had allowed the law to take its course, and had made a powerful plea for conviction. Haskins took up the line of defense, and made the best of a bad case in asking the jury to weigh carefully the testimony. Commonwealth's Attorney B.

There was not much for him to say for the case was practically settled. He thanked deputies, sheriff, the aid, attorneys and the citizens for their duty, particularly the latter for taking the law into their own hands.

The jury went out at 5:20 o'clock and returned in fourteen minutes. "Gentlemen of the jury," said Cl